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# *The Flower Beautiful*

1919



**Festiva Maxima**

**George H. Peterson**

Incorporated

*Rose and Peony Specialist*

**Fair Lawn, New Jersey, U. S. A.**

# Read Carefully Before Ordering

**This catalogue is issued annually on or about August 1st, and prices quoted hold good only for the current year of publication.**

**Why you should order early :** Many Peonies in the better grades are in limited supply and are over-sold yearly. The propagation of the Peony is slow, and we do not "make" varieties to order. If your order is not sent in promptly after catalogue is mailed, please name one or two possible substitutes or instruct us to return money, if that is preferred. Where selection is left to my judgment, I always send greater value than remittance represents.

**Express *vs.* Parcel Post.** Where no instructions accompany order as to method of shipping, we will ship by Express. Under the present Express Tariff, plants are carried as second-class matter, the rate for which is 25% less than the general merchandise rate.

Small orders may be shipped by Parcel Post, if preferred, but usually the second-class express rate will be found the cheaper. In either case, however, the buyer must pay transportation charges, and if shipped by Parcel Post, we will have to prepay the carriage charges and send same C. O. D. with the shipment. In addition to the regular Parcel Post charge, the cost of insurance and a 10-cent fee for the collection of the money and sending it to us will have to be paid by the purchaser.

Express shipments are automatically insured without additional charge up to \$50.00 in value.

**No charge for packing** except on large orders at special price. No charge in any case for delivery to Transportation Companies.

**Substitutions.** Please state what is to be done in case some variety is sold on receipt of your order—whether you wish your money returned or some equally valuable variety substituted.

**Remittances** may be made by Bank Draft, Express or P. O. Money Order on Fair Lawn, N. J., Check, or Currency in Registered Letter; same to accompany order.

**Open Accounts.** Any one desiring to open an account will please send financial references, which, he should understand, will take a few days to investigate. No account opened for an initial order of less than \$10.00.

**Complaints,** if made immediately on receipt of goods, will be investigated, and, if due to any fault or negligence on my part, will be promptly satisfied.

## Twenty-five Years with the Peony

I have lived twenty-five years with the peony, and as in married life, this is a milestone joyously celebrated, and a time to look both backward and forward, so I, too, as I start on the second lap toward a golden jubilee, look happily backward and hopefully forward, confident that another like period will bring many more to know and love this flower, as I have known and loved it, than even the past quarter of a century has done.

And the past twenty-five years have meant much to this flower. At the beginning of that period, the peony, as it is known today, was but rarely met with in American gardens. Since then, this business alone has sent out literally hundreds of thousands of plants, not only all over our own country, but from far northern Canada to the mountains of South America, and to the "other side" of the world as well. Today, in China, where the chief species of the peony originated, there are growing several hundred of our plants, which, greatly improved as the varieties are, must make the natives look on with wonder.

And this business in the peony, now so large and ever-increasing, has grown from a small boy's almost worship-love. In the days of long ago, there was an oldtime garden, protected by a whitewashed picket fence, and which, today, I can see in memory as plainly as I saw it then. You entered it through a swinging gate, which you could not forget and leave open if you would. The main pathway ran through the center of the garden, and on either side, as you walked along, you were greeted with Johnny Jumpups, Sweet William, Bleeding Heart, etc., all growing in a riotous profusion, and setting defiance to the landscape architect's art. Further along you came to the stately Hollyhocks, and, more than all to my childish fancy—the Peony.

First of all, there was the ubiquitous Old-Fashioned Red, attractive in its rich crimson dress, but soon to be overshadowed and forgotten, since just a little further on, and just before you came to the Bartlett pear tree, with its encircling seat of wood, there were two large clumps of "real" peonies, one white and one pink. In those days, I did not know that peonies had individual names, but my recollection of the white one, with its center touches of blood, is still too vivid to leave any doubt but that it was Festiva Maxima. It grew taller in five or six weeks than I had grown in as many years and I can still recall being lifted up to get a better view of the wonderful flowers, and how, when I asked what made the little red blotches on the otherwise pure white, I was told that once a

naughty little boy, in trying to cut some of the flowers, cut his finger instead, and a little of his blood was spilled on the petals. I was further told that each year thereafter this flower always came with a little blood on it to remind little boys that they must never disobey their mothers.

I have since wondered if parents are justified in inventing such stories, but I nevertheless believe it did have a more or less lasting and beneficial effect on me, and to this day, whenever I cut this flower, I am reminded of the story of the bad little boy and his cut finger.

The pink one, I am almost equally confident, was *Edulis Superba*, and to me they were both, I was then sure, the biggest and most beautiful flowers in the wide, wide world. When the time came that I was permitted to carry a bloom of each, white and pink, to my teacher, I almost trod on air, and was sure that the Queen of Sheba had never been presented with such treasures.

This garden was mine to enjoy and to revel in until I reached the age of twelve, and in June, not even the brook, which hurried along nearby, with its sunfish, its suckers, and an occasional trout, could often lure me away. I used to sit on the bench under the pear tree and plan how, when I became a man, I would plant just such a garden as this for everyone in the world, which, at that time, did not look quite so big to me as it grew to be later on.

Forty years have since gone by, but today I am, in fancy, sitting there again, watching the humming birds come and go, and marveling that such wondrous beauty and purity could come out of that which I had to scrupulously clean off my bare feet each Summer night ere I went to bed. Today, this problem is as much unsolved as when I was brought to my senses with "*George, have you brought that wood in yet?*"

This was the seed sown in a boy's heart, and now grown beyond my dreams. I have not, it is true, yet succeeded in placing a peony in every garden in the world, but we are getting there, and while in those days my peony possessions could have almost been covered with an umbrella, I now have acres and acres of them. Were you to start and walk along each row, you would fall from exhaustion ere you had reached the end. The world is now my canvas, Nature my brush, and the Peony my box of colors!

Today I worship this flower more than I did when a boy—more than I did when I started with it in earnest twenty-five years ago. During the blooming season I am among my peonies from early morning 'til dark at night, and then, under the electric light, you will find me sitting at a table, worshipping a *Therese*—a *Solange*, or one of a score of other rare and beautiful kinds.



**Rosy Dawn** (See page 31)

There are not many things in this world or life that have given me the real, the lasting pleasure, that the peony has given me; and what it has been, and is to me, it may be to you, if you but possess a garden. No other flower combines such hardiness and permanency, such size, fragrance, and delicate beauty, such a range of colors and shades; requiring so little care, and which is so free from disease and insect pests.

Regardless of other advertising claims that may be made, you will find our roots the truest, strongest, and cleanest of any you can buy. My whole time the year 'round is devoted to the growing and selling of this flower and the rose; thus I not only "grow" nothing else, but *do* nothing else. I am in no other business or line of effort. Nowhere else in the world, I am sure, is such conscientious effort given to every detail of the culture of this flower. As a result, you will find our plants are bigger and stronger, have healthier, richer green foliage, and bear bigger flowers than you will find in any other



nursery. Furthermore, I challenge you to find more than one mixture or mis-named peony to every 20,000 plants.

All of the pictures given herewith are photographs of our own flowers and fields, and untouched by the artist's brush. They are put before you just as Nature, the greatest artist of all, gave them to us.

Remember, please, that the peony must be planted in the Fall, and so my plea to you is not to let another season go by without becoming acquainted with the flower that has meant so much to me from my earliest boyhood days.

GEORGE H. PETERSON.

Fair Lawn, N. J., July 1, 1919.

### EXHIBITION

In June of each year we give an exhibition, at the nurseries, of both Roses and Peonies. Peonies are usually at their best the second week of June. Roses, in the exhibition beds, attain their height about the middle of June, and in the fields about the first week of July—this retarded flowering being caused by pinching the young shoots back in May to form a bushy plant.

Seasons vary, however, and so if you really intend to come, advise me of the fact and your name will be entered for notification at the proper time.

### HOW TO REACH NURSERIES

My nurseries are located on Fair Lawn Avenue, near the railroad depot of Fair Lawn, on the Bergen County branch of the Erie R. R. They can also be reached by trolley via "Hudson River Line," foot of West 130th Street, New York. Take Paterson car and change at Ridgewood Junction (just before reaching Paterson) to a Ridgewood car, which leave at Fair Lawn Avenue, and walk eastward (to right) one-half mile. The nurseries are less than two miles east of the north end of Paterson.

Visitors may inspect flowers on Sunday also, but positively no business is done on that day.

## "THE BOOK OF THE PEONY"

BY MRS. EDWARD HARDING.

This is the only real book extant on this subject, and is written by an amateur for amateurs. It is a most helpful and beautiful publication, with many cuts in colors. Every lover and grower of the Peony should possess a copy, and which we shall be glad to supply at the publisher's price, \$6.00 net.



## The History of the Peony

THE Peony, like the Rose, can be traced back to ancient times, but the species *PAEONIA ALBIFLORA* (so popular to-day), or, as it is commonly known, the Chinese Peony, is of modern development.

The species *OFFICINALIS* is indigenous to Europe, and it is probably this class which is referred to in the writings of the ancient Greeks, and concerning which there were so many peculiar and superstitious legends.

The *ALBIFLORA* and *MOUTAN* (Tree Peony) types can be traced back to China in the middle of the sixth century, when these classes received considerable attention at the hands of the Chinese gardeners. These subsequently found their way to Japan, where the Moutan class won much favor, was greatly improved, and is still very popular.

So far as can be learned, the *Albiflora* type, with which we are most concerned, did not reach Europe or America until early in the nineteenth century. It appears that at first there was little general and determined effort made to improve this species, but toward the middle of this period the French hybridists (the most skilful in the world) enthusiastically took hold of this flower with results that are little short of marvelous; as is shown in the varieties we possess to-day.

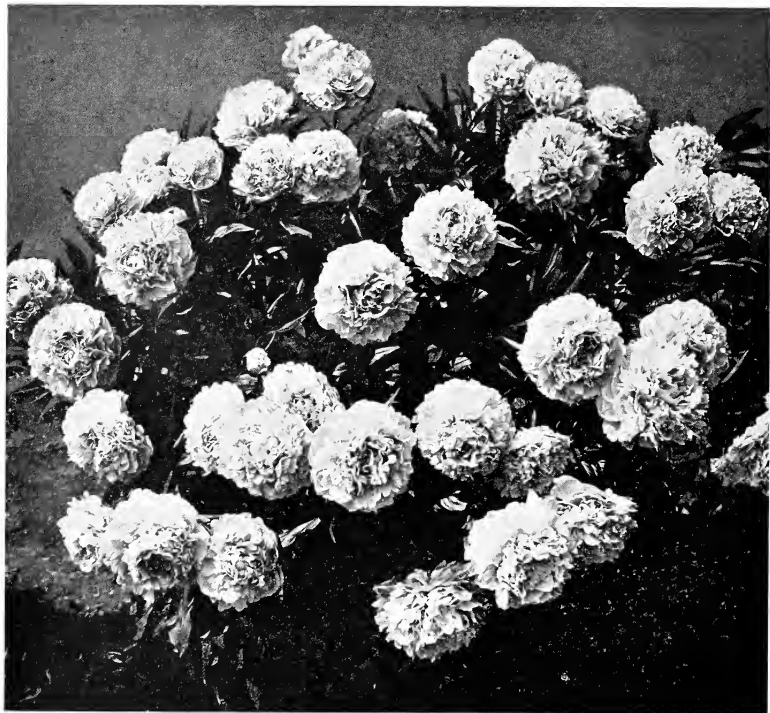
Concerning the naming of this flower, Dr. Coit very interestingly relates:

"It is the species *officinalis* which probably secured for the genus its name. The genus *Paeonia* was so named by the ancients in honor of Paeon, a physician, who cured the wounds received by the heathen gods during the Trojan war. The ancient writers, who transformed simple facts into fabulous histories for the purpose of deifying favorite mortals, relate that Paeon, who was a pupil of the great Aesculapius, first received the peony on Mt. Olympus from the hands of the mother of Apollo, with which he cured Pluto of a wound he had received from Hercules, but this cure caused so much jealousy in the breast of Aesculapius that he secretly caused the death of Paeon. Pluto, however, retaining a grateful sense of his service, changed him into the flower which ever after bore his name."

In olden times this plant was supposed to have much medicinal value, and it appears that it was also the subject of much absurd superstition. Dr. Coit states:

"Antiquity celebrates the virtues of this plant and places it among the wonders of the vegetable garden. Fable gives us its origin, Aesculapius its properties, and superstition ranks it among miraculous plants, assuring that demons will fly the spot where it is planted, and that even a small piece of root worn around the neck is sufficient to protect the wearer from all kinds of enchantment.

"The ancient Greeks when digging up the plant were careful to do so at night only, as it was said that if anyone attempted to meddle with it in the daytime the green woodpecker, which the gods had assigned to the plant as a protection, would dart at the eyes of the intruder."



**A Single Plant of Mad. Chaumy** (See page 19)

## ABOUT THIS YEAR'S PRICES

Owing to the war, we were, of course, rather short of help last Fall, and this we were utilizing to the utmost in cutting down several hundred cords of oak wood for fuel purposes to "help win the war." As a consequence, the only peonies we propagated and planted out last Fall were a few of the rare kinds which I personally divided and, with the help of my stable man, planted. We thus have, this year, but few one-year plants to offer, and, with the exception of some of the rare kinds referred to above, in order to supply one-year plants where offered this year, we shall have to take the smaller plants out of the two-year planting. Where the figure "1" does not appear at the end of the description of any variety, we cannot supply same this season in the one-year size, even from the two-year patch.

We shall, therefore, because of the scarcity of one-year roots, and the fact that they are mostly small two-year-old plants, have to

charge a little more for that size this season. By comparing, however, prices of two-year and three-year-old roots with last season's prices, it will be found that these sizes have not, in general, been increased, but on an average will, I think, be found to be a little less. We now have, both in quantity and quality, an unusual stock of two-year and three-year-old plants in many, if not most, varieties, and this is the buyer's opportunity, since, in accordance with the United States Government's Plant Exclusion Act, now in force, peonies may no longer be brought into this country from any foreign one.

Next year, prices will have to be increased, perhaps very materially, unless the cost of labor and supplies falls considerably, which is hardly likely. Remember, please, that our prices for two-year and three-year-old roots are no higher than when the European war broke out.



**Milton Hill** (See page 29)

## Planting and Cultivation

The Herbaceous Peony is of such simple culture, and so easy to grow, that but little instruction will be necessary in order that the beginner may produce the finest blooms. While it will grow and bloom under conditions in which most plants would perish, it will well repay, in largely increased size and beauty of bloom, a thorough preparation of soil.

Where such fancy blooms are wanted, it will be well to excavate the proposed beds to a depth of 2 to 2½ feet and fill in with good loam or garden soil, which has been well worked and broken (not sifted) and mixed with 3 inches of well-rotted stable manure. If only new manure is obtainable, it should be mixed well with the soil in bottom of trench up to within about 15 inches of surface, and applied *lightly* as a mulch on the surface after planting.

In preparing beds do not put the manure in layers and let it remain so, as many do. The manure should be made as fine as possible and thoroughly *mixed* with the soil—not merely turned over. A flat-tined fork, such as is used for digging potatoes, is the implement needed here. The ordinary spade is of little use.

Too much manure is often used for the Peony's good, with the result that decay of root sometimes sets in. Where the ground is very fertile it is often wise to use no manure.

Should one decide in spring or summer to plant in fall, and only new manure is obtainable, the bed may at once be made, and with a forking over every two weeks, ideal conditions will be had by fall. In the heat of summer, manure quickly disintegrates when handled thus. The object of the above is to give the root abundant plant-food and yet prevent hunks or lumps of decaying manure to come into direct contact with it, which might start rot to set in. There is such a thing as getting the ground too rich for the Peony.

## CHARACTER OF SOIL

Probably the very best soil for the Peony is one which is neither too heavy with clay nor too light with sand, one which might be termed a heavy loam, and such as would make a good vegetable garden. Such a soil should be fairly retentive of moisture, and the Peony, being a strong, quick grower, can absorb much water.

**Never plant the Peony in soil where Peonies have grown before, or at least until quite a number of years have elapsed. Disregard of this will result in comparative or even complete failure.**

## WHEN TO PLANT

The best season for planting the Peony is in the fall, after the roots are well ripened. In this latitude, this occurs in most varieties after mid-September, and is shown in the foliage becoming colored. Many nurserymen begin digging in August, but a glance at your Peonies then will show the foliage still quite fresh and green. The roots, too, will suffer from shriveling if dug and shipped while weather is hot.



**Princess Mathilde** (See page 31)

#### DEPTH AND DISTANCE TO PLANT

The root should be set so that the upper eyes are about two to three inches beneath the surface of the soil, and, if planted in permanent beds, should be about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart, according to room at one's disposal. When planted in field for cut-flower purposes, the plants should be set 3 to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart in row, and rows from 4 to 5 feet apart, or plant 4 x 4 to permit cross cultivation.

#### WATERING

No water need be applied when planting is done in the fall. In the spring, after growths appear above ground and rains prove infrequent, copious waterings will be very helpful in promoting strong growth and producing large blooms. From the time buds begin to show color, care should be exercised to keep them and the open flowers as dry as possible, confining the water, as much as possible, to the ground.

If the soil is fertile, plain water will be best to use, and if necessary to use manure-water, apply in weak solution.



### CUTTING BLOOMS

When cutting flowers, always leave at least two leaf stems on stalk cut. It is best not to cut all of the flowers, as it is of vital importance that sufficient foliage be left on the plant all summer to develop the eyes under ground for next season's growths.

### AFTER THE BLOOMING SEASON

The plants will make no further top growth after the blooming season is over. Keep the ground about them stirred and free from weeds, and water need be applied only when ground is quite dry.

Seed-pods and remains of flowers may be cut off, but do not under any circumstances remove foliage until October. I repeat this since I have known people to cut off all foliage to the ground soon after the blooming season was over, and then next season wonder why they had little or no bloom.

### WINTERING

So far as protection from cold is concerned, the Peony does not ask it in even the most severe climate. The first winter, the roots, being loose in the ground, will require a light protection (an inch or so) of strawy manure or other porous material. After this, if the ground has been made deep and rich, as directed, I would advise withholding all manure and protection for several years, and, when it does again become necessary to fertilize, the manure should be broadcasted rather than placed directly over the crown of the plant, which latter, study and observation have shown me, often induces decay to set in.

A heavy mulching, having to some extent the same effect as a deep planting, will often be followed by blind growths or buds which fail to develop. (See "Why Some Peonies Do Not Bloom.")

### DISEASES AND INSECTS

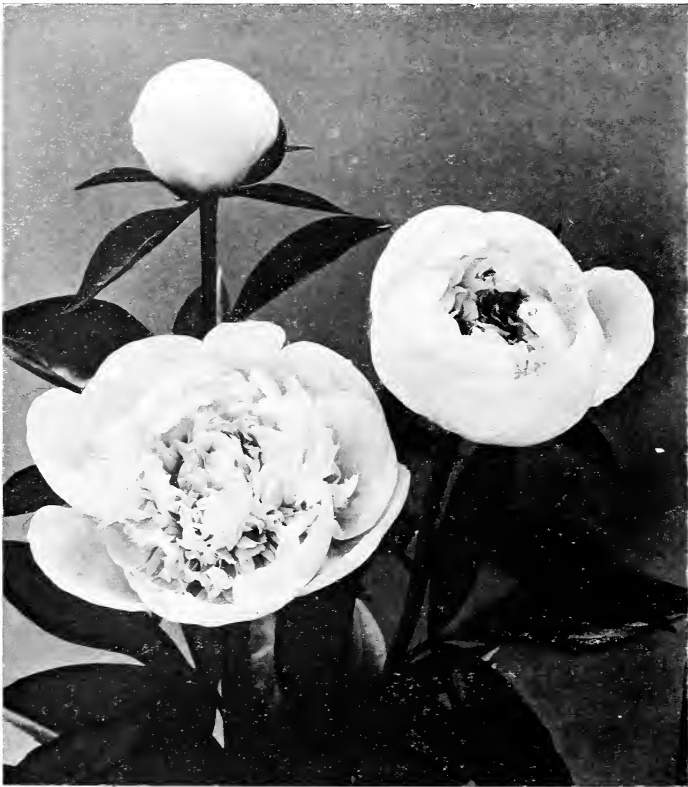
The Peony is practically immune from general diseases. See to it that you get healthy plants to begin with, and then you will have nothing to fear.

If you obtain sickly looking roots it is usually due to the grower having raised them on land where Peonies had been grown before. Some growers, after digging and selling certain varieties, will propagate and replant each year the same varieties in the places where roots of the same kinds had earlier in the season been dug. In this way they may have one, two and three-year-old roots in the same row and save much ground space, but it is a most pernicious practice. From the beginning we have never resorted to this, but each year our plantings have been made in soil new to the Peony. As a result our roots are of most unusual vigor and bloom-producing qualities.

During a very wet spring season some foliage, buds, and even stems will rot, but unless the whole plant is affected (and this has practically never happened here among the many thousands of plants we grow yearly), one need not be unduly alarmed.

The only insect which ever, even slightly, injures the Peony is the rose chafer, which will sometimes be found eating the petals of the flower. With the exception of the later varieties, the Peony is usually done blooming ere this pest appears, and so it would, perhaps, be wise, where the chafer is annually very troublesome and one has no inclination to combat it, to omit the later sorts. The Peony is, however, so very large, with dense petalage, that this bug, when it does attack a flower, usually buries itself in the petals, and does not disfigure it as it does a rose or other flower.

ANTS, which are often seen on the buds as they are developing, are there to gather a sweet, gum-like substance which the bud exudes. They do no harm to the coming flower nor to the plant, and will disappear on opening of flowers.



**Duchess de Nemours** (See page 22)



### WHY SOME PEONIES DO NOT BLOOM

As this is a question sometimes asked, I will here answer it for the benefit of all interested.

In the first place, a Peony root, whether large or small, recently transplanted, will usually throw up more or less blind shoots, or with small buds which fail to develop. This effect will also often be produced by very deep planting or too heavy a mulching over winter. (See "Wintering.")

Occasionally very severe late frosts, after the Peonies are well above ground, will also destroy the coming blooms. This, however, has never happened to a serious extent in this latitude during the many years I have been interested in Peonies, but in some localities I have known this to destroy practically the entire crop, although it did not seriously affect subsequent growth of the plant for the season.

Lack of moisture or fertility will also affect the blooming qualities of a plant. The Peony requires much moisture during the few weeks preceding its blooming time—afterward, having, by June, made its entire growth above ground for the season, moderate moisture will do.

Then again, there are many thousands of Peony plants all over the country which should never have found a place in the private garden. A grower raises seedling Peonies by the acre. He must cultivate them several years before they bloom, and when they do bloom he finds few or none that are as good as varieties already in existence, but lacking the courage to dig them up and throw them away, he sells them to the average nurseryman, to whom all roots look alike, and thus they find their way into the planter's hands. Very probably many of these seedlings have never bloomed and some of them probably never will.

In my own tests of varieties, one that does not begin to bloom within two or three years from planting is discarded, and it must be a very distinct and unusually good variety to be retained and offered here if it does not bloom well and regularly *every* season after having become established. It is true that there are some varieties which are tardy in beginning to bloom. Take, for instance, Richardson's Rubra Superba, a variety we scarcely ever get flowers from the first two seasons after planting, but it is such an unusually fine Peony, and blooming when practically all other Peonies are gone, it must be retained.

Of course, there will always be some blind growths, even on well-established plants. A fruit tree does not mature all its blossoms, and some years a potato plant yields three times as much as in another season; but, taking it all in all, the Peony is a plant of easy culture, and year in and year out will, with ordinary care, give a good account of itself.

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**If you are a prospective buyer of Peonies,  
pages 33-35 will prove of great interest.**

## USES

There is probably no other plant with such varied usefulness. For effective massing in landscape work the Peony is unequaled. As an edging or facing for shrubbery, it is likewise good. Planted in beds, or borders, or as specimen plants on the lawn, it is equally at home. It is particularly attractive when used to border a drive or walk.

An attractive use for the Peony is low, ornamental, lawn hedging. This, of course, applies where only ornament, and not defense, is required. The dark, glossy-green foliage, untouched by disease or insects, is exceedingly attractive through the spring and hot summer months.

And the cost, too, in some of the most desirable low-priced sorts will prove quite moderate, since the plants for this purpose may be set  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 feet apart, and a single row is quite ample.

## AS A CUT FLOWER

It is hardly equaled. Cut as the bud is about to unfold, and placed in water in a cool room, where the air is fresh night and day, most varieties will last several days. The blooms will then be superior to those left to open on the plant and exposed to the heat of the sun.

If set at once in a cold, dark cellar the different varieties may be kept several days longer than their blooming period. Bring up as wanted.

## MOST ECONOMICAL PLANT TO BUY

While its first cost may seem high, it is really the most economical plant one can buy from the fact that it represents a *permanent* investment and one which pays annual dividends of increase of at least 100 per cent. Almost every family, of even the most moderate means, spends annually quite a tidy little sum in Bulbs, Geraniums, and other bedding plants, and at the end of the year has nothing left to show for it. Plant the Peony, and it will last as long as you do—and longer. Plantings may be left undisturbed from ten to twenty years, or even longer, if the soil is occasionally enriched.

## THE PLANTS I SEND OUT

"One-year" plants are those which have grown a full year since division. "Two-year" plants have grown two years since division, and where the cost can be borne, are, of course, more desirable, as the immediate effect is greater. "Three-year" plants are very heavy clumps, and are well worth the price asked. They will make a large, bushy plant at once.

Do not let the mere number of eyes claimed influence you, as a weak root with from six to ten small eyes may not flower for several years, while two or three good plump eyes (and most of my smallest size plants will average double this), with strong roots behind them, will flower the first season. Even in one-year stock, I aim to send out only roots which will produce some bloom the first season, if well planted, and this we can invariably do if your order is received fairly early.



### DISBUDDING

Most Peonies usually set three or more buds to a stem. (See cut above.) All but the central (largest) bud should be pinched off as soon as they can be gotten hold of if the finest individual blooms are wanted.

### THE QUALITY OF MY ROOTS

Is something exceptional. If you have purchased Peonies of others, you will be astonished at my strong, clean, fresh roots, with big, plump eyes that "mean business."

For several years now my Peonies have been growing on an exceptional piece of land, and with clean, thorough tillage all summer, very unusual results are attained. In short, these roots are the best that intelligent, human effort can produce, and in Peonies they will be found to lead all other roots, just as my "EPOCH ROSES" lead all other Roses produced anywhere in the world.

### TRUENESS

Desirable as it is to get fine, strong roots, it is even of greater importance that stock be true to name, and it is in this phase of the business that I especially challenge comparison. During the blooming season my personal time is devoted almost exclusively to proving stock, and I maintain trial and test gardens such as cannot be found elsewhere in this country. The pith of all this is well, if briefly, expressed in the enthusiastic statement of a patron, "If you get it of Peterson, it's true."

### HOW THE PEONY IS SENT TO YOU

The Peony is sent out in the form of a root (see cut below), from which, when dormant, will be seen protruding pinkish "eyes" or buds, the strongest of which will throw up next season's flowering shoots.

### WHEN SHIPMENT IS MADE

We usually begin digging about September 15th, and ship after that date, unless shipment is especially requested earlier.

We do not ship Peonies in the spring. The spring planter, since most Peonies are sold and planted in the fall, must take the leavings, no matter where he purchases, and then, too, it is almost an impossibility to dig and pack Peony roots in the spring without breakage of the brittle, tender growths. Fall is the natural time to plant this noble flower.



**A Dormant Peony Root as it appears  
in the Fall**

### CAN BE SHIPPED SAFELY ANYWHERE

The Peony, in fall, can stand without injury a journey of months, if kept from prolonged heat, which would start it into growth. There is, in fact, no flower which can be transported over long distances with greater safety.

### WHY YOU SHOULD ORDER EARLY

It will be to your interest to send in your order promptly on receipt of this catalogue. This may save you disappointment, as some varieties are in limited supply, and cannot be obtained from reliable sources. Many varieties I can supply by the hundred. Early orders also get the strongest roots. The receipt of your order and remittance will be acknowledged by return mail.

## The Varieties I Offer

The list I offer is sufficiently long to embrace the various colors, forms, and seasons of the Peony, but not so long as to make selection by the average planter needlessly difficult and perplexing. In fact, I aim to keep my list as brief as seems advisable, and have yearly eliminated from my collection such sorts as have proved inferior or too much like other established sorts. This elimination requires a certain courage which few growers exercise, with the result that a long and confusing list is set before the prospective buyer, and which necessarily must contain duplicate or inferior kinds, or both.

Of course, I have in my collection varieties other than those catalogued. Occasionally a variety is sold rather close, and must be withheld from public offering a year or two. Then, too, I have some of the new, rare kinds which are sold up as fast as they can be propagated from a very small beginning, and which sell up to \$20 apiece for one-year roots.

## Prices

Are net, as quoted, except as noted below, and are as low as a like quality can anywhere be obtained. The thorough cultivation given my Peonies, going over the fields with the cultivator and hoe every ten days the entire season, and the extreme care exercised in handling, labeling and packing, I have never seen equaled elsewhere. And remember that a Peony root quoted at a certain price may actually be worth two or three of same variety quoted for less money elsewhere.

### DISCOUNTS

Orders amounting to	\$10.00	.....	5% off
"	"	" 25.00	.....10% "
"	"	" 50.00 and upward.....	15% "

Above discounts apply to everything except the three collections on page 32, which are net at the special prices quoted.

## Herbaceous Chinese Peonies

(*Paeonia Albiflora*)

### Section A

1 year, 50 cents; 2 year, 75 cents; 3 year, \$1.00 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

- ACHILLE (Calot).** Delicate flesh. Buds and half-open flowers exquisitely fresh. Foliage very distinct and beautiful, dark green, with crimped edges. Fine habit. 1—2—3.
- DR. BRETONNEAU (Verdier).** Full, globular bloom, evenly formed. Beautiful even shade of bright soft pink. Sold also under name of Lady Leonora Bramwell. 2—3.
- DUCHESS D'ORLEANS (Guerin).** Large, carmine-pink guard petals, with center of soft pink, interspersed with salmon. Nice pointed bud. Tall grower. An exceedingly good, perfect bloomer and very pretty flower. One of the most desirable of the low-cost sorts. 1—2—3.



Mad. Barillet-Deschamps (See page 24)



- EDULIS SUPERBA (Lemon).** Beautiful, brilliant rose-pink, silvery reflex; large, well-formed, full flower on strong stem. Blooms very early, just before Festiva Maxima. Lasts well. Fragrant and good in every way. A much worthier sort than its price would seem to indicate. There is quite a stock of it in existence. Splendid cut flower sort for Decoration Day. 1—2—3.
- HUMEI (Anderson).** Large, full flower. Guard petals delicate rose-pink, center whitish pink with touches of carmine. Very late bloomer. Found in many old-time gardens. 1—2—3.
- MAD. LEBON (Calot).** Very large, full bloom, tall, erect grower. Showy flower. Petals broad, brilliant cherry-pink, intermixed with narrow salmon petals; silvery reflex. Late mid-season. 1—2—3.
- MEISSONNIER (Crousse).** Very brilliant crimson, full flower, coming late mid-season on very long, wiry stems. Foliage remarkably narrow. Color is wonderfully rich and brilliant. 2—3.
- NEC PLUS ULTRA (Miellez).** Fresh rose-pink, shaded with lively pink. Fine, large bloom on long stem. A "good buy," since, like *Edulis Superba*, it is really worth more than the price asked. 2—3.
- PULCHERRIMA (Guerin).** Large and full flower produced freely. Color violaceous pink. Good habit and bloomer, and a most worthy sort for its price. 1—2—3.
- QUEEN VICTORIA (?).** Outer petals flesh white; center rosy white, shaded with salmon; center petals tipped with carmine. Good bloomer and habit. 2—3.
- RUBRA TRIUMPHANS (Guerin).** Brilliant dark crimson. The foliage is also very dark, with reddish stalks, presenting, especially in the early season, a pleasing contrast when planted with a light green foliage sort like *Duchess de Nemours* (Calot). 2—3.

## Section B

1 year, 60 cents; 2 year, 90 cents; 3 year, \$1.25 each.

*Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.*

- BEAUTE DE VILLECANTE (Gombault).** Large, full flower. Pink and delicate flesh; exquisitely fresh, rosy color. Good upright grower. 1—2—3.
- BOULE DE NEIGE (Calot).** Very large, cup-shaped, sulphur-white flower with golden reflections. Center petals freely bordered carmine. Buds marked and splashed carmine, as in *La Tulipe*. Fine, strong, upright grower; stems long and stout. Fine dark foliage. Fragrance very strong and sweet. 1—2—3.
- CANARI (Guerin).** Outer petals flesh white, with yellow center. Very tall grower; sweetly fragrant. Very prolific bloomer. Splendid value for its price. 1—2—3.
- CHARLEMAGNE (Crousse).** Rosy white, shaded lilac and chamois. Very full and well-rounded bloom. Opens very slowly and lasts well. Fragrant and exquisite when in perfection, but cannot stand a great deal of wet weather. Very late variety. In wonderful profusion and perfection the past season (1919). 2—3.
- COMTE DE PARIS (Guerin).** Pretty, anemone-shaped flower; outer petals pink, center soft pink and salmon-yellow, with tuft of bright pink petals edged with crimson. A very pretty and floriferous sort. 1—2—3.
- DUKE OF WELLINGTON (Calot).** Guard petals white, very broad; center petals sulphur-white, narrow and very full. The large, finely-formed flowers come on long, firm stems. A good, free bloomer; deliciously fragrant. 2—3.



- GENERAL BERTRAND (Guerin).** Deep rose-pink, large guard petals, center well filled with small salmony-pink petals edged with whitish pink. Splendid habit and foliage; nice, elongated bud; in all of which points it resembles Modeste Guerin, and is sold, even by specialists, for that variety. It lacks, however, the solid color, and firmness of guard petals, found in Modeste Guerin. 1—2—3.
- JENNY LIND.** Large, full, bright pink variety. Very tall grower. Good, profuse bloomer. Splendid value for price asked. 1—2—3.
- LA COQUETTE (Guerin).** A jaunty flower of moderate height; good bloomer. Nicely formed, full, rose-colored flower, with center of carmine and salmony flesh. 2—3.
- MAD. CHAUMY (Calot).** Large, very full and compact flower, beautifully formed. Silky petals, soft pink, shaded with bright rose. Slightly drooping, graceful habit. Splendid on well-established plants under rich cultivation. Late and very sure, profuse bloomer. 1—2—3.
- MAD. DE VATRY (Guerin).** Large, perfectly formed bloom, outer petals clear flesh; center sulphurish, rosy white marked with carmine. A pleasing Peony. 1—2—3.
- MARECHAL VALLIANT (Calot).** Immense, full, purplish red flower, coming on very long stems. The flower is very solid, heavy, and somewhat drooping in habit. One of the showiest Peonies grown and one of the last to bloom. Always a prize winner at the late shows. 1—2—3.
- MATHILDE DE ROSENECK (Crousse).** Exceedingly tall grower and good, late bloomer. Flower extremely large and full. Color flesh-pink, shaded with chamois and delicately edged carmine. 1—2—3.
- RUBENS (Delache).** Deep, unusually rich, brilliant crimson, flower moderately full, showing golden stamens in center, making a beautiful and striking contrast. Fine for color effect. It rates low only in price. 1—2—3.
- VAN DYCK (Crousse).** Large bloom, convex anemone-shaped; very fresh salmon pink, center shaded chamois. Good habit and bloomer. 2—3.

## Section C

1 year, 75 cents; 2 year, \$1.00; 3 year, \$1.50 each.

*Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.*

- ALEXANDER DUMAS (Guerin).** A pretty shade of bright pink, with chamois, white and salmon intermingling; flowers large and very full. A most attractive and showy variety, combining several colors, but in general effect pink. Very good and reliable. 2—3.
- CANDIDISSIMA (Calot).** Large, cream-white guard petals; center sulphur-yellow, with green heart, very full and compact; graceful, slightly drooping habit. The earliest of the white and yellow varieties to bloom. Under fair cultivation the flower is very large and of rarely delicate beauty. 1—2—3.
- DE CANDOLLE (Verdier).** Brilliant, currant amaranth. Immense, full, imbricated, wonderfully showy bloom. Profuse bloomer. 2—3.
- DELACHEI (Delache).** Large and full, deep, rich, dark crimson flower. Good grower and bloomer and fine for massing effects; fragrant. Late mid-season. 1—2—3.
- FESTIVA MAXIMA (Mieliez).** Very large and full pure white flower, with few center petals usually tipped with blood-red spots. A very vigorous grower, with massive foliage, flowers coming on long, stiff stems. Fragrant, early, and blooms most abundantly. Perhaps the very best all-around white we possess. It is certainly the most popular. 1—2—3.

**FLORAL TREASURE (Rosenfield).** Very delicate salmon pink, with green heart. Rosy tinge on first opening. Good upright grower and bloomer. Flower large and full; foliage light green. A charming flower where delicacy of coloring is desired. 1—2—3.

**JEANNE D'ARC (Calot).** Soft pink, sulphur-white and rose; center spotted carmine. A unique and charming combination of colors. Moderately strong grower, a very free bloomer, flowers invariably coming perfect. The most popular of the tri-colored sorts. 1—2—3.

**LA TULIPE (Calot).** Flesh-pink, shading to ivory-white, center petals tipped and outer petals freely striped with carmine. Large, very fragrant, globular flowers, borne on long, stiff stems; very strong grower. Very striking bud; distinct and desirable. 1—2—3.

**L'INDISPENSABLE (sold by some as Eugene Verdier).** An enormous, heavy flower of wonderfully solid petalage. Very soft, pleasing, sea-shell pink. This variety has been grown in Holland for quite some time under above name, but its origination has not been definitely established. It is not, however, Eugene Verdier. With certain soil and weather conditions present, the outer petals sometimes turn brown, adhere together and prevent the flower opening. Where this condition prevails the bloom will expand if these bound petals are gently removed. When sprinkling, keep water off buds and you will soon possess a flower of royal beauty. 1—2—3.

**MAD. CROUSSE (Calot).** Large, full white flower, of unusual pureness; good, upright grower. Very fragrant. 1—2—3.



**Charlemagne** (See page 18)



### Alexander Dumas (See page 19)

**MAD. DE VERNEVILLE (Crousse).** Exceedingly fine, full, anemone-shaped flower. Broad guard petals, sulphur-white; center rosy-white, with an occasional edging of carmine; beautifully imbricated. Very sweet, rose-like fragrance. Blooms early and very abundantly. A flower to love, and without which in abundance I could hardly live. 1—2—3.

**MARECHAL MacMAHON (Calot).** Very large, convex bloom. Broad guard petals, center petals narrow and built up close and high, ball-shaped. Color on opening, deep, rich, vinous red. Strong grower with large, very dark, glossy foliage; stems very stiff. Very fine bud. Blooms late mid-season. An indispensable Peony. 1—2—3.

**MARIE STUART (Calot).** Large, anemone-shaped bloom. Outer petals broad, soft pink; center pink and sulphur-white, sometimes touched with carmine. Sweetly fragrant. Very early. 2—3.

**PHILOMELE (Calot).** Guard petals soft pink; center a real deep golden yellow with center tuft of rose, bordered carmine. Very distinct and sweet syringa-like fragrance. Possesses the deepest yellow to be found in Peonies. Good lasting qualities. One of the most striking varieties. Splendid, both as a cut flower and for garden decoration. A bed or border of this sort will halt every passer-by. 1—2—3.

**RUBRA SUPERBA (Richardson).** Deep, rich, brilliant crimson. Large, full flower; strong grower. Blooms when nearly all other Peonies are gone, and possesses great lasting qualities. Fair to good bloomer on old plants, but does not do much the first year or two. Undoubtedly the best very late crimson. 2.

## Section D

1 year, 85 cents; 2 year, \$1.25; 3 year, \$2.00 each.

*Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.*

**ARMANDINE MECHIN (Mechin).** Large, full, clear amaranth flower. Probably the most brilliant and dazzling red Peony in cultivation. Very desirable. 2—3.

**DENIS HELYE (Verdier).** Large, full, and very showy red flower of medium height. Good. 2—3.

**DUCHESS DE NEMOURS (Calot).** Guard petals white, center lemon-yellow, with greenish reflex. The flower opens at first cup-shaped, disclosing its lovely lemon-yellow center, then gradually develops into a large well-formed bloom which gradually fades to white. Among all Peonies there is nothing so exquisitely chaste as this variety in a half-open state. A good, profuse, sure bloomer; sweetly fragrant. Fine habit. Splendid cut-flower and all-around variety. Blooms early. 1—2—3.

**FELIX CROUSSE (Crousse).** Large, anemone, ball-shaped bloom. Color brilliant, dazzling red, with ruby-flamed center. Good grower, bloomer and one of the most popular all-around red varieties. 1—2—3.

**GRANDIFLORA NIVEA PLENA (Lemon).** Superb, very large and full flower; white, tinted delicate sulphur, with carmine stripes at center. An extra early variety, resembling somewhat Festiva Maxima, than which it is a little earlier and a more creamy white in color. 1—2—3.

**LIVINGSTONE (Crousse).** Very large, full, evenly formed and shaded bloom. Color beautiful soft pink. Good, erect grower and bloomer. Stems tall and stout. Reliable young bloomer. Season late. Magnificent bud. 1—2.

**LOUISE RENAULT (Crousse).** Very large and full bloom, petals very broad. Color unique—a solid slatish pink. Fragrance very spicy and the most delightfully refreshing of all Peonies. Good habit and stems. Blooms late. 1—2—3.

**MAD. CALOT (Miellez).** Broad, flesh, guard petals; center blush, deepening to delicate crushed strawberry, surrounded with small, straw-white petals. Flower very large, full and superbly built; early and fragrant. Growth and stems ideal. Very free bloomer. Whole effect fleshy-salmon-white, fading to white. Not so promising on young plants, but on established ones it is truly superb, and this, together with its sure and abundant blooming qualities, places it, in my estimation, as one of the very foremost Peonies for general planting. 1—2—3.

**MAD. EMILE GALLE (Crousse).** Large, cup-shaped, imbricated flower, soft lilac pink; center shaded soft flesh and cream, fading to rosy white. Coloring of great delicacy. Splendid bud. Foliage very distinct dull green. Late. Extra. 1—2—3.

**MODESTE GUERIN (Guerin).** Very large, anemone, ball-shaped bloom, perfectly built. Bright carmine pink, solid color. Splendid habit and foliage. Very fine, elongated bud. This is a choice and distinct Peony. 1—2—3.

**MONS. BOUCHARLAT-AINE (Calot).** Large, full bloom of beautifully rounded and symmetrical form and of ideal erect habit. Nice, lively pink, tinted delicate lilac with silvery reflex. Profuse bloomer. 1—2—3.

**MRS. MCKINLEY (Terry).** Very distinct and oddly formed flower, having a single row of broad, deep pink guard petals, center filled with narrow straw and chamois-colored petals. Habit ideal, with good blooming qualities. 1—2—3.

**OCTAVIE DEMAY (Calot).** Very large and full, well-built flower. Rosy blush on first opening, fading to white, with occasional coloring of carmine in center. Color of exceeding freshness. Plant is somewhat dwarf, but bears regularly and prolifically its very large flowers on stiff, upright stems. Early bloomer. Fragrant. In my opinion this variety is one of the most charming and meritorious of all Peonies. 2—3. (SEE ILLUSTRATION ON LAST COVER PAGE).

**ROSE D'AMOUR (Calot).** Large, full, cupped flower; soft fleshy pink; very distinct even shade. A coloring of exquisite freshness. 1—2.

**SOUV. DE L'EXPOSITION DE BORDEAUX (Dessert).** Moderate size flower, described by the introducer as "bluish violet and vinous red, with brilliant reflex." Densely filled with narrow, pointed petals. Very distinct and striking color—a pickled-beet red. 2—3.



Mad. Geissler (See page 24)

### Section E

1 year, \$1.00; 2 year, \$1.50; 3 year, \$2.25 each.

*Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.*

**ALBERT CROUSSE (Crousse).** Large, very full, evenly formed bloom; fresh-pink; center shaded with clear pink. Petalage small and very dense. A high-class, late Peony. 2—3.

**ALFRED DE MUSSET (Crousse).** Well-formed, large, fleshy white flower, shaded pale salmon, with rosy center. A most charming sort and of most exquisitely fresh coloring. 1—2—3.

**ASA GRAY (Crousse).** Very large, full and perfectly formed bloom. Salmon and fleshy pink, petals beautifully marked and marbled with carmine-lilac. Tall, upright grower, and profuse, sure bloomer. Words cannot paint the beauty and worth of this gem among Peonies. 1—2—3.



**CONSTANT DEVRED (Calot).** One of the last of all Peonies to bloom. Very large, full and evenly formed violet pink flower, coming on exceptionally strong, upright stems. Good and reliable. 1—2—3.

**COURONNE D'OR (Crown of Gold). (Calot).** Very large and full imbricated flower of superb form. White, reflecting yellow, center petals bordered with carmine; golden stamens showing through and lighting up flower. Solidly and perfectly built from edge to center. Fragrant, a good grower and reliable bloomer. Blooms moderately late, preceding Marie Lemoine. 1—2—3.

**MAD. BARILLET-DESCHAMPS (Calot).** Very tender pink, bordered with white and shaded with lively silvery tints. Golden stamens reflected throughout flower. An immense, full ball of silk and satin, very sweetly perfumed. Tall grower, with very distinct broad foliage. 1—2—3.

**MAD. DUCEL (Mechin).** Large, wonderfully built flower; broad guard petals, center ball-shaped, very full and compact. The closely set small petals are beautifully curled, as in a chrysanthemum. Whole flower solid color of silvery, lilac pink. Foliage very fresh dark green. Very distinct and floriferous. Blooms early. Indispensable. 1—2—3.

**MAD. GEISSLER (Crousse).** Gigantic, full bloom; rather flat when fully open. Glossy lilac, rose pink, shaded to Bengal rose at base of petals. One of the largest of all Peonies. 2—3.

**MLLE. ROUSSEAU (Crousse).** Very large and full flower with broad petals. Sulphur-white with flesh colored center, shaded salmon; fragrance strong and agreeable. Foliage a distinct yellowish green with reddish stems. A high-class variety of great merit. 1—2—3.

**MARGUERITE GERARD (Crousse).** Large, full flower; tall upright grower. Flesh changing to soft flesh-white, with creamy white center. A profuse bloomer, opening all its flowers perfectly. An exceedingly choice and indispensable variety. 1—2—3.

**MARIE JACQUIN.** Glossy, flesh-white, with rosy tinge to bud. Exquisitely beautiful, moderately full, cupped flower, retaining this form. Flowers on newly set plants and weak growths often come near single. With its wealth of golden stamens in center, this flower suggests our native pond lily. Fragrance very rich and languorous. Very distinct and fine. 2—3.

**MARIE LEMCINE (Calot).** Large, sulphur-white, full and well-built flower, delicately shaded chamois, with narrow carmine edge. The massive bloom comes late on a very stout, erect stem of medium height. A sort the Peony enthusiast raves over, as well he may. 1—2.

**MONS. DUPONT (Calot).** Very large, cup-shaped, perfectly built flower; creamy white, center petals bordered with lively carmine, and lit up with golden stamens at base of petals. Exceedingly rich bloom and deliciously fragrant. Good, tall grower. Blooms rather late, preceding Couronne d'Or. A truly royal flower. 1—2—3.

**MONS. KRELAGE (Crousse).** Large to very large full flower; deep wine-red. Solid color; fine habit; very fragrant. 2—3.

**SOLFATARE (Calot).** Guard petals pure white; center petals narrow, sulphur-yellow. Large, full, fragrant flower on good stem. Exquisitely beautiful. The true Calot variety of this name is one of the most valuable Peonies we possess. In my opinion it leads all of that most charming class—white and yellow. 1—2—3.

**SOUV. DE L'EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE (Calot).** Very large, full flower; rich, clear, brilliant pink with silvery reflex. Good, prolific bloomer. This is, perhaps, the clearest bright pink of all Peonies without a suggestion of purple. 2—3.

**UMBELLATA ROSEA. (Syn. Sarah Bernhardt). (Dessert).** Broad guard petals, delicate rose-pink. Center petals short, straw-yellow, with tufts of whitish pink. Habit ideal; flowers borne on stiff, upright stems. Fragrance delicate and agreeable. Blooms young and abundantly. The first of the Albiflora sorts to flower; usually in bloom here by Decoration Day. A lovely Peony. 2—3.

## Section F

1 year, \$1.20; 2 year, \$1.75; 3 year, \$2.50 each.

*Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.*

**ATROSANGUINEA (Calot).** Large, full bloom. Color deep scarlet-red tinged with violet; bright golden-yellow stamens showing through flower. Very brilliant and showy. Superb habit. Fragrant. 1—2—3.

**AVALANCHE (Crousse).** Very large and full, milky white flower of perfect form, reflecting yellow from the base of petals; few center petals very delicately edged with carmine. Fine, strong grower, good bloomer and delightfully fragrant; late mid-season. Really superb, and by many considered the best white of all. 2—3.

**LA ROSIERE (Crousse).** An exceedingly charming, cup-shaped flower. White, with small yellow center, suggesting an immense pond-lily. Moderately large flower, coming on a bush of moderate height. An appealing Peony of unusual distinctiveness. 1—2—3.

**MAD. BUCQUET (Dessert).** Very pretty, perfectly shaped bloom. Color dark, velvety amaranth. Good upright habit and free bloomer. Next to Mons. Martin Cahuzac this is the darkest red, and should be in every collection where dark reds are prized, especially where Cahuzac cannot be afforded. 1—2—3.

**MODELE DE PERFECTION (Crousse).** Immense, well and evenly formed flower. Color flesh-pink, marbled with bright rose, deepening in center. Flower opens cup-shaped, then develops to a high-pointed center, which afterward opens up, making a very high, built-up flower. Good, erect habit, strong stems and a prodigious bloomer. Very distinct and desirable. Blooms late. 1—2—3.

**SUZANNE DESSERT (Dessert and Mechin).** Large and full, broad-petaled flower of a clear china pink color, with silvery border. Good bloomer, distinct in coloring and very showy, "silky" bloom. Do not omit this, as in both shade and texture it is unmatched by any other Peony. 1—2—3.

**TRIOMPHE DE L'EXPOSITION DE LILLE (Calot).** Large, full and beautifully imbricated flower of perfect form. Soft fleshy pink, with white reflex; petals exquisitely dotted and marbled with carmine. One of the very best reliable bloomers and almost unequalled in beauty among the light pinks, resembling and second only to Reine Hortense. 2—3.

## Section G

1 year, \$1.30; 2 year, \$2.00; 3 year, \$3.00 each.

*Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.*

**AUGUSTE VILLAUME (Crousse).** An enormous flower, very full, and of splendid form and habit. Rich, deep pink; flowers opening perfectly. Decidedly the best, very late, dark pink; invariably a prize winner. 2—3.

**MAD. DE GALHAU (Crousse).** Enormous, imbricated flower, coming on tall, firm, erect stems. Color soft, glossy, flesh-pink, shaded with transparent salmon. A superb, late variety of ideal habit, and a good, profuse bloomer. The buds often begin to open one-sided, but they invariably develop slowly into prize-winning blooms. Absolutely indispensable. 1—2.

**PIERRE DESSERT (Mechin).** Brilliant, dark amaranth-red flower, shaded garnet with velvetish reflex. Large, full bloom. 1—2—3.



## Section H

1 year, \$1.50; 2 year, \$2.25; 3 year, \$3.50 each.

*Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.*

**ADOLPHE ROUSSEAU (Dessert).** Deep, brilliant red with metallic reflex; enormous flower on tall, stiff stems. Ideal habit. This variety attracts more general attention, and receives more admiration than any other red in our collection. Usually the flower, which is of extraordinary size and stands above surrounding sorts, is not very full, although on the strongest stems of established plants the flower is quite well built up to the center. Next to Mons. Martin Cahuzac it is about the darkest red and with no trace of purple. Our stock of this variety is of splendid quality, and for the first time of sufficient quantity to enable us, I trust, to meet all reasonable demands. 1—2—3.

**AUORE (Dessert).** "Large, cup-shaped flower, very soft flesh-pink, salmoned yellow at base of petals, stamens very prominent." This, a comparatively new French variety, was greatly admired here the past season. It is of good habit, very free-blooming and lasts well. A Peony which visitors quickly "take to." 2—3.

**COMTE DE GOMER (Calot).** Very large, full and late bloom. Color a mauve red. The blooms are very heavy and borne on stems of unusual stoutness and rigidity. This variety usually gives us prize-winning specimen blooms in the late season. 2—3.

**EUGENE BIGOT (Dessert).** Brilliant, velvety crimson red; flowers large, full and of splendid form. Rather tall grower, late and good bloomer. The best of its color and season. 1—2—3.

**EUGENIE VERDIER (Calot).** Flesh-pink, changing to white in center. An enormous flower coming on exceedingly long stems, gracefully drooping. This is one of the most distinct, impressive and beautiful Peonies in cultivation, and should not be confused with Eugene Verdier, from which it is entirely different. 2.

**GRANDIFLORA (Richardson).** Large, full flower, flesh, changing to fleshy white; very fragrant. This, a famous Richardson seedling, is one of the very last of all Peonies to bloom. The flower unfolds its delicate beauty slowly, and lasts well both on the bush and when cut. 1—2—3.

**LAMARTINE (Calot).** Large to immense, very full flower, delicate baby-pink with silvery reflex. Known also as GIGANTEA. With good culture, this variety produces a flower of both unusual size and beauty. 1—2.

**MAD. BOULANGER (Crousse).** Very full bloom, soft, glossy, silvery light pink; fragrant. A very late variety, of unusual delicacy of coloring, and small, dense petalage. 1—2—3.

**MONS. JULES ELIE (Crousse).** Immense, globular, very full flower; glossy, fresh pink, deeper at base of petals; silvery reflex on whole bloom. Glossy, light green foliage. Superlatively fine. When well grown this is the largest and grandest of all pink Peonies. 2—3.

**NUMBER 2.** This is one of the most striking of all the late varieties. The flower is immense, very full and evenly formed; color a medium light, even pink, changing to silvery pink. Profuse annual bloomer. I have had it from abroad for about ten years and cannot identify it. Superb. 2—3.

Note special collections on page 32.

Discounts on page 16.

Index of varieties on page 36.



Mad. Ducl (See page 24)

### Section I

A few rarely beautiful things for the connoisseur.

**BARONESS SCHROEDER (Kelway).** Very large and full creamy-white flower of unusual depth and softness. Splendid habit and bloomer; medium late. A flower to conjure with among connoisseurs. 2 year, \$3.50; 3 year, \$5.00.

**CLAIRE DUBOIS (Crousse).** Very large, globular flower, very full, convex, tufted; petals laciniated and incurved. Color of the finest original pink; glossy reflex. Late mid-season bloomer. A royal flower. 2 year, \$3.50; 3 year, \$5.00.

**CLAUDE LORRAIN.** Very full, well-formed flower, very fresh, soft pink in color; tall grower. Exquisite variety. 2 year, \$2.50; 3 year, \$4.00.

**GERMAINE BIGOT (Dessert).** Large to very large flesh-pink flower, tinged pale rose; full bloom, fragrant and of good habit. Stamens visible throughout flower. A new French variety, the introducer stating that it is a variety of "exquisite coloring and great beauty," and one which has already proved with us of great worth. In addition to its high quality of flower, it is a very reliable and free bloomer. 2 year, \$3.00; 3 year, \$5.00.

**GISMONDA (Crousse).** Very late bloomer; flower unusually large, full, and perfectly formed. Color, light pink, deepening to a distinct circle in center of darker pink or rose. A really superb peony. 1 year, \$5.00.



**Auguste Villaume** (See page 25)

**GROVER CLEVELAND (Terry).** Deep, brilliant, crimson red; very large, full, and finely fringed globular flower. Color peculiarly rich and glowing, without a suggestion of purple. An American production of very great merit. **2 year, \$2.50; 3 year, \$4.00.**

**KARL ROSENFELD (Rosenfield).** A quite new red of American origin, and, in my opinion, one of the very greatest red peonies in existence. The habit is strong and upright; the flower very large and full, and of a deep, brilliant, blood-red, showing no trace of purple. This is a variety which every lover of red peonies should surely possess. **1 year, \$5.00.**

**LA TENDRESSE.** Large and very full creamy white flower of distinct formation, blooming medium late, and suggesting the famous *Le Cygne*. Again very fine with us this season but will not stand a great deal of rain. **2 year, \$3.00; 3 year, \$4.50.**

**MAD. AUGUSTE DESSERT (Dessert).** The color of this new variety is a glossy flesh shaded with carmine, the general effect being most pleasing and "fresh." The flower is large and full; perfect cup-shaped form. **2 year, \$3.50.**

**MAD. EMILE LEMOINE (Lemoine).** Large and full globular bloom, rosy, creamy white, a very delicate and fresh coloring. Fragrant. One of the fine new French varieties. Not only is the flower one of the finest of all whites, but in both habit and blooming qualities it is ideal. **2 year, \$3.00; 3 year, \$4.50.**

**MAD. JULES DESSERT (Dessert).** In this variety we have a remarkable new sort, the color of which might be expressed as a straw white tinged with flesh. The flower is large to very large, beautifully imbricated and of distinct formation. The habit is ideal, the flowers coming on long, upright stems. **For sale this year in Diamond Collection only.**

**MAD. LEMONIER (Calot).** Exceedingly large, full flower, coming on exceptionally tall, erect stems. Color very distinct and attractive, lavender shading to white. This unusually fine Peony is very different from any other in cultivation, and should not be confused with Madame Lemoinei, also a Calot variety. **1 year, \$2.00; 2 year, \$3.00; 3 year, \$5.00.**

**MARCELLE DESSERT (Dessert).** "Large, finely shaped bloom; glossy, creamy white, very slightly splashed carmine, center slightly flecked with crimson; fragrance of a tea rose. Good habit and fine foliage. A variety of great beauty." (Above is originator's description of a new French variety). **1 year, \$2.00; 2 year, \$3.00.**

**MARIE CROUSSE (Crousse).** Very large, full, beautifully formed and rounded flower of the most exquisite shade of salmon pink imaginable, fairly glowing with freshness. Good habit and bloomer. Very distinct and rare. **2 year, \$4.00; 3 year, \$6.00.**

**MILTON HILL (Richardson).** Like most of Richardson's varieties this is one of the latest Peonies to bloom, and is considered one of his greatest productions. As the flower opens up in bird nest form it is found to be crowded with small, salmon-pink petals of the most exquisite and pure shade, and despite what you may have said of any Peony which preceded it, you will now declare that this variety is incomparable. Good, strong grower with very distinct yellowish-green foliage. I warmly commend this to the connoisseur. **2 year, \$3.50; 3 year, \$5.00.**

**MIREILLE (Crousse).** Very large, full, milky white flower of unusual richness and distinctiveness. Good habit, and blooms very late. **1 year, \$2.00; 2 year, \$3.50; 3 year, \$5.00.**

**MONS. MARTIN CAHUZAC (Dessert).** Large, full and well-formed flower. A solid ball of very deep maroon with blackish lustre, changing to metallic. Good, erect habit. A variety of surpassing merit and by far the darkest Peony yet produced. This is one of the few Peonies the price of which does not lessen with age. The demand keeps apace with the supply, and prevents any accumulation of stock. **1 year, \$5.00; 2 year, \$8.00.**

**PASTEUR (Crousse).** Very delicate pink, almost white, shaded tea rose color. The flower is large, full, and comes on long stems. **2 year, \$3.00; 3 year, \$5.00.**

**PIERRE DUCHARTRE (Crousse).** Very large, cup-shaped, imbricated bloom, densely crowded with petals. Soft flesh-pink with glossy reflex; silvery border. One of the latest Peonies to bloom, and one of the most perfect and beautiful as well. **2 year, \$4.50; 3 year, \$6.00.**

**REINE HORTENSE (Calot).** This I consider to be about the finest all-around pink Peony in existence. The flower is large, full and very evenly formed, moderately light, even pink in shade; buds crimson flecked. Habit very good, and always a reliable bloomer, every flower developing perfectly. A real diamond. **1 year, \$3.00; 2 year, \$5.00.**

**ROSA BONHEUR (Dessert).** One of Dessert's new and charming creations. The plant, while rather dwarf in growth, yields abundantly a large and prettily-formed flower of light, fleshy pink. **2 year, \$6.00.**

**SARAH BERNHARDT (Lemoinei).** One of Lemoinei's recent gems, and should not be confounded with the old Sarah Bernhardt of Dessert, now listed under Umbellata Rosea. This is a really great Peony, soft, even pink in shade, the flower being very large and full, evenly formed, and produced in profusion on a very strong-growing plant. I have now been growing this variety for six years, and as a favorite with me it is pressing Reine Hortense pretty hard. **1 year, \$5.00; 2 year, \$8.00.**

**SIMONE CHEVALIER (Dessert).** This is one of the very large and very early Peonies. The color is described by the introducer as "pale lilac rose, tinged salmon, center flecked with crimson, silvery border." The growth is exceedingly strong, and the plant a free and sure bloomer. We have had this for the past six years in our exhibition garden, where it has attracted a good deal of favorable attention, and are now glad to have some choice plants to offer the peony lover. **2 year, \$2.50; 3 year, \$3.50.**

**SOLANGE (Lemoine).** Here is a gem that I hate to barter for mere lucre. To say that it is one of the most distinct and remarkable Peonies grown would be to convey but little. The blooms are large to very large and very full, and of beautiful rounded form. The color, however, is its chief attraction and very difficult to popularly describe. Generally speaking, it is a white after the flower has been open for some time. Were you to take a bowl of cream, add a little coffee, and could gather and mix in the rosy glow of a morning sunrise, you would get pretty nearly the effect this flower gives us upon opening. A late-blooming Peony and a great one. **1 year, \$10.00.**

**STEPHANIA (Terry).** Very large and full, cupped flower, creamy white with golden reflections from stamens at base of petals throughout flower. Very fragrant; late mid-season. This I consider one of the very best of Terry's lifelong efforts. **1 year, \$2.50.**

**THERESE (Dessert).** This is one of Dessert's greatest accomplishments, and had he produced but this one peony, it would have been sufficient to engrave his name on the memory of every peony lover for all time. The flower is full to the center, and while immense in size, is one of the most delicately beautiful peonies in existence. The color is lavender and white, with which there is intermingled a delicate shade of pink. In addition to its wonderful quality as a flower, it is a profuse and sure bloomer, every flower developing perfectly in every season during the six or seven years we have had it. Even the smallest roots invariably develop flowers the first year. The bush is of splendid, symmetrical habit, and distributes its marvelous flowers quite evenly. **1 year, \$7.50.**



**Marguerite Gerard** (See page 24)



## Single Herbaceous Peonies

In foliage, and habit of growth and bloom, these are similar to the double Peonies. The flower, however, has but one row of petals with a wealth of golden stamens in center, making a graceful and very attractive bloom which is fast becoming the idol of many of the most "cultured" peony lovers.

**CLAIRETTE (Dessert).** A white French variety of unusual beauty and charm. The flower is very large, with big, broad petals and with a large tuft of golden stamens in center. The growth and blooming qualities are very good. 2 year, \$2.50; 3 year, \$4.00.

**DEFIANCE (Terry).** One of the most striking of the single Peonies. In color between a pink and a red. The plant is a very strong grower and enormously productive. The general effect is exceptionally showy. 2 year, \$2.00; 3 year, \$3.00.

**PRINCESS MATHILDE (Dessert).** A charming French variety. china pink, splashed and tipped with silvery white. Large flower; good grower and of fine habit. Unquestionably the best single pink. 2 year, \$2.50; 3 year, \$4.00.

**QUEEN OF MAY.** A delightful, free-blooming variety of a clear rose-pink color. 3 year, \$2.50.

**ROSY DAWN.** Blush-white, changing on opening to pure white. Flower very large and one of the very finest of the single whites. 2 year, \$2.00; 3 year, \$3.50.

**THE MOOR.** Very showy and rich, deep crimson-red flower of unusual lasting qualities. Good grower and profuse, sure bloomer. Splendid for massing effects. Decidedly the best very dark single red. 2 year, \$1.00; 3 year, \$1.50.

**VELOUTINE (Dessert).** This is a medium large, tulip-like flower of good habit and profuse blooming qualities. The color is described by the introducer as "tyrian rose with velvety reflex." Gives a very showy effect. 2 year, \$1.50; 3 year, \$2.50.

## "Old-Fashioned Red" Peony

**OFFICINALIS RUBRA FLENA.** This is the old-fashioned red herbaceous Peony of old-time gardens. Its season of bloom is between that of the Tree and Chinese or Albiflora classes, flowering in time for Decoration Day throughout the middle North. The flower is of moderate size, full and brilliant red. 1 year, 50 cents; 2 year, 75 cents; 3 year, \$1.00.

## Mixed Peonies

I offer these in "divisions," by which is meant separated roots just as we divide all stock for first plantings. They are made up exclusively from named varieties where the labels have been lost and such sorts as have been on test and found either to resemble too closely already existing varieties or not sufficiently good to find a place in our limited and select collection. There is not an unnamed seedling, such as usually are used in "mixed" lots, among them. Planted where color effect is not important, they will prove most useful for quantities of cut blooms, but do not expect too much the first year.

A purchase of these carries with it the delightful charm of uncertainty with, however, the certainty that you are sure to draw some prize winners. A real "bargain."

We cannot accept orders for these in certain colors, nor for less than 25 roots.

\$12.00 per 100; \$6.00 per 50; \$3.50 per 25.

## Peony Collections

These are made up from my best stock, and are especially recommended to any one desiring a small collection and who is unacquainted with the merits of the different sorts. The Standard Collection embraces the best among the low-cost sorts. The Royal Collection is made up of gems of the first water, and will make a Peony enthusiast of any one possessing an appreciation of the beautiful in Nature. The Diamond Collection is for those who desire something extraordinarily fine and rare and not likely to be found in one's neighbor's garden.

Note.—For reasons stated on page 6, we cannot, this year, offer either the Standard or Royal set in one-year-old roots.

### STANDARD COLLECTION

		2 year	3 year
BOULE DE NEIGE	Sec. B	\$0.90	\$1.25
CANDIDISSIMA	" C	1.00	1.50
CHARLEMAGNE	" B	.90	1.25
COMTE DE PARIS	" B	.90	1.25
DUCHESS D' ORLEANS	" A	.75	1.00
DUKE OF WELLINGTON	" B	.90	1.25
EDULIS SUPERBA	" A	.75	1.00
GENERAL BERTRAND	" B	.90	1.25
MEISSONNIER	" A	.75	1.00
NEC PLUS ULTRA	" A	.75	1.00
PHILOMELE	" C	1.00	1.50
RUBENS	" B	.90	1.25
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$10.40	\$14.50
The set for		\$8.00	\$12.00

### ROYAL COLLECTION

		2 year	3 year
ALEXANDER DUMAS	Sec. C	\$1.00	\$1.50
AVALANCHE	" F	1.75	2.50
COURONNE D' OR	" E	1.50	2.25
DUCHESS DE NEMOURS	" D	1.25	2.00
FELIX CROUSSE	" D	1.25	2.00
FESTIVA MAXIMA	" C	1.00	1.50
MAD. CALOT	" D	1.25	2.00
MAD. DE VERNEVILLE	" C	1.00	1.50
MARGUERITE GERARD	" E	1.50	2.25
MODELE DE PERFECTION	" F	1.75	2.50
OCTAVIE DEMAY	" D	1.25	2.00
TRIOMPHE DE LILLE	" F	1.75	2.50
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$16.25	\$24.50
The set for		\$14.00	\$20.00

### DIAMOND COLLECTION

		1 year	2 year
ADOLPHE ROUSSEAU	Sec. H	\$1.50	\$2.50
AUGUSTE VILLAUME	" G	1.25	2.00
CLAIRE DUBOIS	" I	2.00	3.50
GRANDIFLORA	" H	1.50	2.25
MAD. DE GALHAU	" G	1.30	2.00
MAD. EMILE LEMOINE	" I	2.00	3.00
MAD. JULES DESSERT	" I	5.00	8.00
MAD. LEMONIER	" I	2.00	3.00
MONS. MARTIN CAHUZAC	" I	5.00	8.00
PIERRE DUCHARTRE	" I	3.00	4.50
REINE HORTENSE	" I	3.00	5.00
SARAH BERNHARDT	" I	5.00	8.00
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$32.55	\$51.75
The set for		\$25.00	\$40.00

No further discounts allowed on these sets.



## The Test

### What I Have Done for Others, I Can Do For You

The following extracts from letters, limited, unfortunately, to so very few, because of lack of space, will, I think, convince the prospective purchaser who does not know me, that my Peonies are all, and a little more, than I claim for them. They have all come to me entirely unsolicited and, as may be observed by the dates, since last year's catalog went to press. They are printed by permission of the authors afterward secured.

209 East Fayette St., Baltimore, Md., Sept. 18, 1918.

I may say also that whenever you have in stock varieties which I desire, I always purchase from you in preference to other growers, as I find your stock healthier, eyes larger, and general constitution stronger.

F. H. BARCLAY.

607 Chester Ave., Moorestown, N. J., Sept. 25, 1918.

The peony roots covered by enclosed check are the best looking ones I have ever seen. This is the second year in which I have purposely bought from different growers in order to make comparisons. Hereafter, so long as you furnish as good quality roots, I shall be disposed to place all my orders with you.

R. L. FREEMAN.

Warwood, West Va., Sept. 27, 1918.

It certainly is a pleasure to do business with you, and if at any time you care to use my name as reference to anyone in this section, you are at perfect liberty to do so. Anyone who cares to, can come to my place and see for themselves what FINE stock you produce.

W. S. WEBB, M.D.

Saginaw, Mich., Oct. 15, 1918.

The roots are clean and strong, with eyes and old stalk ends that look as though they will "deliver the goods" next Spring. I have received many plants inferior in size and quality to those you send out, but none superior from any grower during the half dozen years I have been interested in the flower of all flowers.

WILL McCLELLAND.

742 Meldrum Ave., Detroit, Mich., Oct. 8, 1918.

Have just received and unpacked the box of peony roots, and want to say that I have been growing peonies for fifteen years, but have never seen such healthy, beautiful roots.

MRS. FRANK H. JOYCE.

Lincoln Nat'l Life Insurance Co., Fort Wayne, Ind., Oct. 5, 1918.

The peony roots received yesterday were, as have been those sent me in the past, unusually fine, and I have purchased roots from a number of places.

FRANKLIN B. MEAD.

Box 637, Norfolk, Va., Aug. 24, 1918.

Last year I purchased from you your Royal Collection of peonies, and I must say that they far exceeded my expectations.

CHAS. J. SWEETMAN, JR.

Clinton, Wis., Sept. 25, 1918.

The peony roots were received in fine condition. I think they were the best I have ever bought. I have been buying of \_\_\_\_\_ for several years, but not such roots as you send out.

MRS. J. F. KEMMERER.

Southington, Conn., Aug. 31, 1918.

It is a pleasure to say that I have always found your roots of fine quality and true to name, which is more than I can say of those received from some other dealers.

C. H. BISSELL.

Enid, Okla., Oct. 19, 1918.

I can also say that while my peony roots cost me just about the same at two or three places this Fall, yours have superior roots as well as buds, and they arrived in fresher condition.

CHAS. N. HARMON.

177 Michigan St., Rochester, N. Y., Oct. 15, 1918.

Words cannot express my appreciation of your fine peony roots which arrived in splendid shape.

ERNEST A. SPRAGUE.

Vienna, Md., Nov. 7, 1918.

We received from you last Fall your Standard Collection of peonies, and planted the roots in December under the most unfavorable conditions possible, and it gives me pleasure to say that every plant lived and bloomed this Spring. The roots were indeed even more than you represented them to be.

MRS. EMIL HOERNECKE.

123 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, Pa., June 26, 1919.

Must say your roots have proved the best of any I have known of.

HARRY SIMPSON.

Army Medical Museum, Washington, D. C., Oct. 9, 1918.

The peony roots which you sent me a year ago were splendid this, their first season. There were about 50 blooms gathered from 11 one-year-old plants, after removing side buds. In contrast, I purchased 4 roots from \_\_\_\_\_, not one bloom did I gather from these. One lesson is sufficient.

HOWARD R. WATKINS.

Peterborough, N. H., Oct. 15, 1918.

The box of peonies arrived today. They were beautifully packed, and the roots are simply superb. I don't wonder you are proud of them. I never received finer roots from anyone.

ROBERT T. JACKSON.

171 Sixteenth St., Buffalo, N. Y., Oct. 9, 1918.

Your peonies certainly were splendid to behold. I certainly shall remember you in future years, and recommend you with pleasure to my friends.

(MISS) CLARA M. SCHORN.

5400 41st St., Chevy Chase, D. C., Oct. 7, 1918.

The assortment of peony bulbs, which I ordered from you recently, came to hand some days ago. Both in size and quality, they surpassed my expectations.

OTIS H. GATES.

Seboomook, Maine, July 8, 1918.

The peonies you shipped me last Fall are doing splendid—not a blind shoot on one of them—all producing nice, large blooms.

FRED G. HOFFMAN.

Wooster, Ohio, Nov. 7, 1918.

The peonies arrived in perfect condition. I was amazed at receiving such large roots of varieties so rare.

FRANK B. MEYER.

805 Third Ave. East, Cedar Rapids, Ia., Oct. 19, 1918.

You certainly do send the best peony roots I have ever got of anyone, and I have bought many, for I am a peony enthusiast.

MRS. W. H. FRICK.

1524 Hays St., Boise, Idaho.

The peonies came several days ago, and when one receives such splendid stock in such fine condition, it is only fair to acknowledge it and express one's appreciation. The gardener who prepared the bed and planted them had been working at Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ estate in Colorado before coming to Boise, and is now employed by the city parks here. He said that the roots were among the very finest he had ever planted.

MRS. EDWIN SNOW.

Dept. of the Interior, Ottawa, Canada, Nov. 22, 1918.

Peonies arrived in excellent condition and are very satisfactory.

S. J. WILLOUGHBY.



**Festiva Maxima** (See page 19)

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# George H. Peterson, Inc., Fair Lawn, N. J.

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Quantity

VARIETIES WANTED

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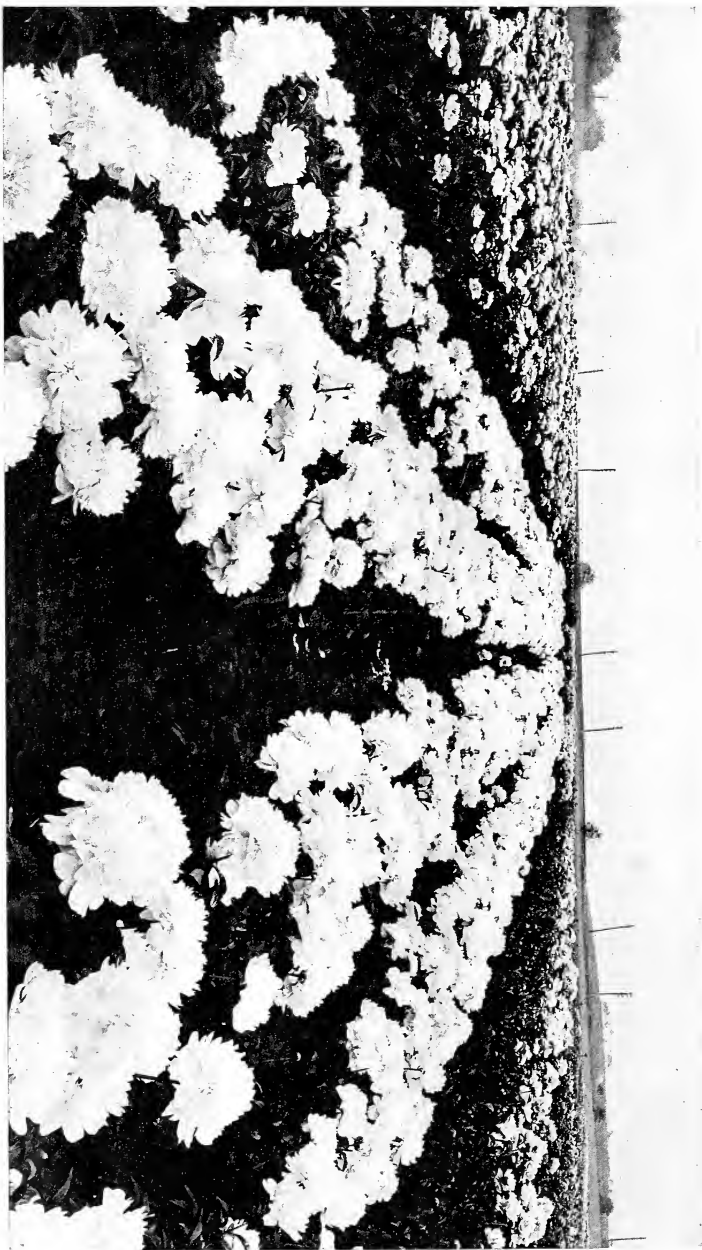
## **“A Little Book About Roses”**

Is the title of my annual Rose catalogue, published February 1st. It is a unique and beautiful booklet, which has found a warm place in the hearts of thousands of Rose-lovers the world over. It represents a business that, for quality, stands alone, and which increases yearly beyond my anticipations and preparation.

My entire time the year 'round is exclusively devoted to the cultivation and the shipping, to various parts of the world, of the Rose and Peony, and among those who know, it is admitted, without question, that in these two flowers I have set a standard of excellence never before attained. The unusual and immediate success of my patrons is such as often to find vent in the exclamation, “Oh, had I only known of you before!”

This little book tells you in detail how to succeed with the Queen of Flowers, and you will be surprised to find how easy the successful cultivation of “Peterson's Roses” really is. And then, too, this booklet is a work of art.

It is sent free to customers—to any one upon receipt of 10 cents (to assure appreciation) in coin or stamps. Copies of the 1919 edition can still be supplied.



A Field View of Octavie Demay (See page 22)